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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

November 13, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

As we approach the end of 2019, I write to urge the advancement of legislation that reflects the urgent priorities of everyday Americans. Specifically, I urge congressional action to protect health insurance coverage for individuals with preexisting conditions. In light of recent court decisions surrounding the constitutional legitimacy of the Affordable Care Act, it is imperative that we safeguard the provisions of the Act that ensure individuals with preexisting conditions have access to affordable health care.

That's why, at the start of the 116th Congress, I reintroduced H.R. 383, the Continuing Coverage for Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019. This legislation would sever five federal requirements related to preexisting conditions from the Affordable Care Act so that if the individual mandate were to be found unconstitutional or invalid, the protections for individuals with preexisting conditions would remain in place. As you know, a U.S. District Court in Texas ruled last December that the individual mandate stands in conflict with the Constitution, invalidating the entire law, including the sections which protect coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions. My bill prevents that potential consequence from becoming reality.

While we may have differing opinions on the Affordable Care Act and the viability of a government-controlled health care system as a whole, I think we can both agree that deliberate, bipartisan steps must be taken to protect coverage for this vulnerable population as the Affordable Care Act's litigation inches closer to a conclusion. I stand ready to work with you and my colleagues across the aisle to advance my legislation, which would do just that.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you on this critical and timely subject.

Sincerely,

David P. Joyce
Member of Congress